

Front Page    Edit Page    Other Page

MONTGOMERY, ALA.  
JOURNAL

E. 25,528

MAR 1 1966

## Another Emerging Government Sinks

IN GENERAL, the United States is opposed to military coups, if for no larger reason than they harass the map-watchers changing the little colored pins.

In general, but there are exceptions. One is the army overthrow of President Kwame Nkrumah, self-professed Redeemer of Ghana, which at the time of its independence in 1957 was hailed as the "showcase of the New Africa." Even Dr. King, among other high priests of the emerging peoples, was on hand to give his blessings.

Ghana, formerly the Gold Coast, had been as well prepared for independence as Britain could make it. But the Redeemer quickly seized the power of a dictator, threw his opponents in prison or otherwise dispensed with opposition, and riveted his showcase to Peking. Fittingly, his overthrow came even as the Red Chinese clique was cheering him in Mao's slavedom.

Ghana, if nothing else, seemed certain to be solvent. Now it's broke, or nearly so. The messianic Nkrumah, presumably well indoctrinated with Western ideals, quickly reverted to something close to ancient African witch doctor status, in a palace instead of a hut.

Nine years ago, Ghana looked great. It had \$700,000,000 in the bank, its population was the most literate in black Africa. Agricultural and mineral riches abounded. With incredible skill, Nkrumah, educated in this country, a professed admirer of democracy and of Washington and Lincoln, succeeded in emptying the stores, bringing industry to a virtual standstill and reducing the nation's solvency to shambles. Naturally, it wasn't his fault, but that of the U.S., the World Bank, the CIA, the Peace Corps and, that most hideous evil spirit of all, "neo-colonialism."

Thus the record in the New Africa stands ominously at two governments overthrown by revolution in 1964, four last year and four already in less than two months of 1966.

It would appear that the State Department, which coined the "emerging" label to flatter countries with little hope of stable independence, should be replaced by another bureaucratic euphemism. How about "culturally deprived"?

The hard truth is that the "emerging" nations are not ready to emerge and will not be for many decades.

CPYRGHT